

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

P. O. Box 614
Leverett, MA 01054

(413) 253-2646

8530 '99 JUL 12 P3:28

June 8, 1999

Commissioner Jane E. Henney
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

As a concerned citizen and chairperson of the Environmental Health Coalition of Western Massachusetts, a grassroots organization that helps to serve the needs of chemically sensitive people, I urge you to save human lives by banning medically useful antibiotics in animal feed. Adding antibiotics to feed in order to promote growth can make bacteria resistant to those antibiotics, and that can leave health care practitioners with no way to treat life-threatening bacterial infections in humans. Therefore, I support the petition filed by the Center for Science in the Public Interest to end this practice.

Sincerely,

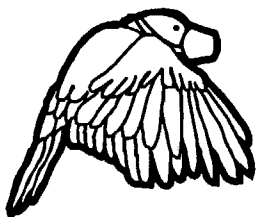


Peggy Wolff MS, RNCS
Chairperson, EHCWM

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS



The Environmental Health Coalition of Western Massachusetts (EHCWM) is a grass roots organization that focuses on issues related to

Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) and other health conditions that are caused or exacerbated by toxic substances in the environment. MCS is a chronic, multisystem illness in which individuals sensitized by chronic or acute toxic exposure suffer severe, disabling, and sometimes life-threatening reactions to subsequent exposures of common indoor and outdoor environmental chemicals such as exhausts, pesticides, fragrances, solvents, and others. Much as the spotted owl functions as a "marker" species for the overall ecological health of the great northwestern forests, so MCS can serve as a "marker" for the environmental health of all our citizens. This is because *people with MCS react to minute amounts of chemicals that are toxic to all in larger amounts*. Their reactivity thus serves as a warning of danger to all.

Purposes of the EHCWM:

1. Support community projects such as: prevention of chemical injury, development of services needed by the chemically injured, etc.
2. Conduct public and professional education about MCS and chemical injury;
3. Facilitate informal peer support; and
4. Support environmentally-friendly legislation.

EHCWM began in 1994 when the Institute for Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (ISIS) brought together local community members, primarily people with MCS and representatives of MA and CT MCS support groups (MACI and ECHO). The organization has grown to include health care providers, public health educators, business people, worker safety and health advocates, building contractors, attorneys, scientists, researchers, and others. EHCWM members have begun local projects to attain accessible hospital facilities, healthier homes and schools, and reduced pesticide use.

In 1996, EHCWM and ISIS were awarded an EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant to:

1. Improve communication and coordination among the MCS community and their stakeholders in three target areas: schools, the health care system, and low-income / public housing; and
2. Increase the general public's awareness of the problems and involve them in reaching solutions.

Contact People:

Dorothy Baker
MCS Peer Support Counselor
(413) 586-6096

Peggy Wolff, MS, RNCS
Chairperson, Environmental Health
Coalition of Western Massachusetts
(413) 253-2646
email: hphpwolff@aol.com

EHCWM MEMBERSHIP/SIGN-UP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Yes, I want to join the EHCWM.

_____ \$10 Individual Membership (Low
income membership also available)
_____ \$15 Family Membership
_____ \$25 Organizational Membership
_____ \$25 Business/Professional Membership

I would also like to donate to the EHCWM as a:

_____ Friend \$10
_____ Contributor \$25
_____ Patron \$50
_____ Sponsor \$100
_____ Benefactor \$500 or more
_____ Other: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to EHCWM, and send to: EHCWM, P.O. Box 614, Leverett, MA 01054.

ACTIVITIES SIGN-UP

The Coalition presently has Study/Action groups working on projects in 4 areas: Schools, Health Care, Hospitals and Housing. Please check which areas are of interest to you.

☐ Schools ☐ Health Care ☐ Hospitals ☐ Housing

Coalition Meetings: I can help with: ☐ Planning ☐ Mailings ☐ Refreshments ☐ Taping ☐ Other

CORE Resource Library: I can help with: ☐ Cataloguing and organizing materials

☐ Finding a site for CORE ☐ Servicing written or phone requests for information and support

Outreach/Public visibility: I am willing to: ☐ Write letters or make phone calls

☐ Speak in community ☐ Set up, serve on phone tree

Other: _____

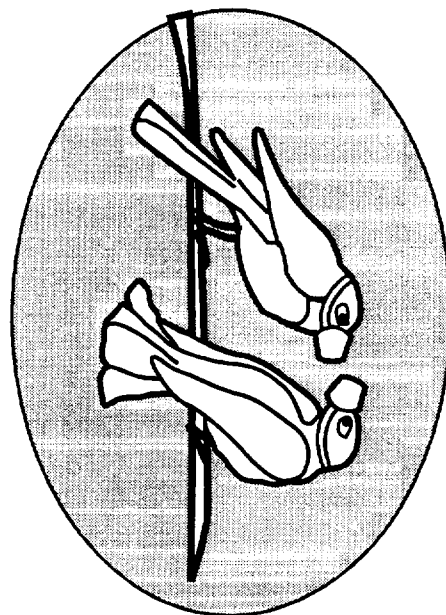
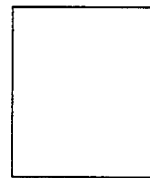
Do you want to receive information about services and products directly related to MCS? Yes No

May we give your name and phone number to others with MCS as a resource person? Yes No

The more local people with MCS we know of, the stronger a case we can make about services and accommodations needed. If you know any local persons with MCS who may not already be connected with EHCWM, please provide their names, addresses and phone numbers so we may count and serve them too.

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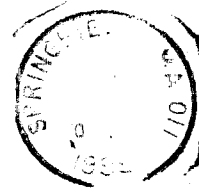
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*Increasing the Public's Awareness of
Multiple Chemical Sensitivities
and other Health Problems
caused by Environmental Hazards
Improving Communication
for the MCS Community*

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